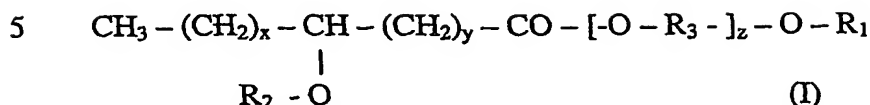


Claims

1. A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

10 R_1 is H or $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$ alkyl;

R_2 is C_{14} to C_{22} , linear or branched, acyl, alkyl or alkenyl wherein the acyl, alkyl or alkenyl may be optionally further substituted with one or more substituents individually selected from the following; halogen, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, carbamoyl($\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$)alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, mercapto, nitro, amino, ($\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$)alkylamino,

15 phenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, ($\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$)alkylthio, or ($\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$)alkylsulfinyl;

R_3 is ethylene, propylene or branched propylene;

x is 2 - 18;

y is 1 - 17;

and the sum of $(x + y)$ is 3 - 19, and

20 z is 25 - 455.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

R_1 is H or $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_2$ alkyl.

25 3. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

x is 2 - 15;

y is 4 - 17;

and the sum of $(x + y)$ is 6 - 19.

30 4. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

z is 25 - 228.

5. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

R₁ is H or C₁ – C₂ alkyl;

R₂ is C₁₄ to C₂₂, linear or branched, acyl, alkyl or alkenyl, wherein the acyl, alkyl or alkenyl may be optionally further substituted with one or more substituents individually selected from the following; halogen, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, carbamoyl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, mercapto, nitro, amino, (C₁-C₄)alkylamino, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, (C₁-C₄)alkylthio, or (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl;

R₃ is ethylene, propylene or branched propylene;

x is 2 -15;

y is 4 -17;

10 and the sum of (x + y) is 6 -19; and
z is 25 - 228.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1-5, wherein
R₁ is H.

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7. A compound according to any of claims 1-5, wherein
R₁ is C₁ – C₂ alkyl.

8. A compound according to any of claims 1-5, wherein

20 x is 2 -12;

y is 7 -17;

and the sum of (x + y) is 9 -19.

9. A compound according to any of claims 1-5, wherein

25 z is 25 - 57.

10. A compound according to claim 5, wherein

R₁ is H or C₁ – C₂ alkyl;

R₂ is C₁₄ to C₂₂, linear or branched, acyl, alkyl or alkenyl, wherein the acyl, alkyl or

30 alkenyl may be optionally further substituted with one or more substituents individually selected from the following; halogen, cyano, carboxy, carbamoyl, carbamoyl(C₁-C₄)alkyl,

fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, mercapto, nitro, amino, (C₁-C₄)alkylamino, phenyl, naphthyl, phenyloxy, naphthyloxy, (C₁-C₄)alkylthio, or (C₁-C₄)alkylsulfinyl;

R₃ is ethylene, propylene or branched propylene;

x is 2 -12;

5 y is 7 -17;

and the sum of (x + y) is 9 - 19; and

z is 25 - 57.

11. A compound according to any of claims 1-10 wherein R₁ is C₁ - C₂ alkyl.

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12. A compound according to any of claims 1-10 wherein R₁ is H.

13. A compound according to any of claims 1- 11 wherein R₁ is methyl.

15 14. A formulation comprising a solubilizing compound according to any of claims 1-13 and a compound requiring solubilization.

15. A formulation according to claim 14 where the compound requiring solubilization is a compound having a solubility of less than 33 mg/ml in water.

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16. A formulation according to claim 14 or 15 comprising a compound according to any of claims 1 - 13, together with a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

17. A formulation according to claim 16 for use as a medicament.

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18. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1-13, as surfactant in a formulation according to claim 14 or 15, or in a pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16.

19. A process for preparing a polyoxyalkylene glycol (POAG) ester, characterized in that
30 the ester has a poly (oxyalkylene) glycol chain or a C₁ -C₄ alkyl derivatized poly (oxyalkylene) glycol chain having 25 - 455 repeating monomer units and that it utilizes a hydrolytic enzyme catalyzing ester formation with POAG or POAG monoalkyl ether and

the carboxylic acid group of an O-acylated, O-alkylated or O-alkenylated hydroxy fatty acid or C₁ – C₄ alkyl ester without catalyzing any reaction with a bond connecting any acyl, alkyl or alkenyl group to the hydroxy fatty acid or hydroxy fatty acid C₁ – C₄ alkyl ester.

- 5 20. A process according to claim 19 for preparing a compound with formula (I), according to any of claims 1-13, characterized in that the process utilizes a hydrolytic enzyme catalyzing ester formation with POAG or POAG monoalkyl ether and the carboxylic acid group of an O-acylated, O-alkylated or O-alkenylated hydroxy fatty acid or C₁ – C₄ alkyl ester without catalyzing any reaction with a bond connecting any acyl, alkyl or alkenyl
10 group to the hydroxy fatty acid or hydroxy fatty acid C₁ – C₄ alkyl ester.

21. A process in which the enzymatic POAGylation step according to claim 20, is performed without the presence of any organic solvents, i.e. a solvent-free reaction step.

- 15 22. A process according to claim 20, characterized in that it gives a compound according to any of claims 1-13, and that it utilizes the hydrolytic enzyme lipase B from *Candida antarctica*.

- 20 23. The process according to claim 20, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is immobilized lipase B from *Candida antarctica*.